

after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Sec. 3. During any adjournment of the House pursuant to this concurrent resolution, the Speaker, acting after consultation with the Minority Leader, may notify the Members of the House to reassemble whenever, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it. After reassembling pursuant to this section, when the House adjourns on any day on a motion offered pursuant to this section by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

When said concurrent resolution was considered and agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby said concurrent resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said concurrent resolution.

¶115.29 BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

On motion of Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, pursuant to House Resolution 604, the House considered the bill of the Senate (S. 1132) to modify the boundaries of the Bandelier National Monument to include the lands within the headwaters of the Upper Alamo Watershed which drain into the Monument and which are not currently within the jurisdiction of a Federal land management agency, to authorize purchase or donation of those lands, and for other purposes.

When said bill was considered and read twice.

After debate,

The previous question having been ordered by said resolution.

The question being put, viva voce

Will the House pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. CAMP, announced that the yeas had it

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

¶115.30 CLEAN GASOLINE

On motion of Mr. BLILEY, by unanimous consent, the bill of the Senate (S. 2375) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, to strengthen prohibitions on international bribery and other corrupt practices, and for other purposes; together with the following amendments of the Senate to the House amendments thereto, was taken from the Speaker's table:

Page 21 of the House engrossed amendments, strike out all after line 9 over to and including line 5 on page 26.

Page 26, line 6, of the House engrossed amendments, strike out "SEC. 6" and insert "SEC. 5".

Page 28 of the House engrossed amendments, strike out all after line 3, down to and including line 9.

Page 28, line 10, of the House engrossed amendments, strike out "(8)" and insert "(7)".

Page 28, line 14 of the House engrossed amendments, strike out "(9)" and insert "(8)".

Page 28, line 19 of the House engrossed amendments, strike out "(10)" and insert "(9)".

On motion of Mr. BLILEY, said Senate amendment numbered 1 was agreed to with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be stricken by such amendment strike line 8 on page 23 of the House engrossed amendments and all that follows through line 2 on page 25 and insert the following:

(c) EXTENSION OF LEGAL PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as required by international agreements to which the United States is a party, an international organization providing commercial communications services, its officials and employees, and its records shall not be accorded immunity from suit or legal process for any act or omission taken in connection with such organization's capacity as a provider, directly or indirectly, of commercial telecommunications services to, from, or within the United States.

(2) NO EFFECT ON PERSONAL LIABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall not affect any immunity from personal liability of any individual who is an official or employee of an international organization providing commercial communications services.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on May 1, 1999.

(d) ELIMINATION OR LIMITATION OF EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) ACTION REQUIRED.—The President shall, in a manner that is consistent with requirements in international agreements to which the United States is a party, expeditiously take all appropriate actions necessary to eliminate or to reduce substantially all privileges and immunities that are accorded to an international organization described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1), its officials, its employees, or its records, and that are not eliminated pursuant to subsection (c).

(2) DESIGNATION OF AGREEMENTS.—The President shall designate which agreements constitute international agreements to which the United States is a party for purposes of this section.

On motion of Mr. BLILEY, said Senate amendments numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, were not agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the votes whereby Senate amendment to the text numbered 1 was agreed to with an amendment and said Senate amendments numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were not agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said amendment to the Senate amendment numbered 1.

¶115.31 GOVERNMENT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ERROR REDUCTION

On motion of Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, by unanimous consent, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and the Committee on the Judiciary were discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4857) to reduce waste, fraud, and error in Government programs by making improvements

with respect to Federal management and debt collection practices, Federal payment systems, Federal benefit programs, and for other purposes.

When said bill was considered and read twice.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia submitted the following amendment in the nature of a substitute which was agreed to:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Government Waste, Fraud, and Error Reduction Act of 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purposes.

Sec. 3. Definition.

Sec. 4. Application of Act.

TITLE I—GENERAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 101. Improving financial management.

Sec. 102. Improving travel management.

TITLE II—IMPROVING FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES

Sec. 201. Miscellaneous technical corrections to subchapter II of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.

Sec. 202. Barring delinquent Federal debtors from obtaining Federal benefits.

Sec. 203. Collection and compromise of nontax debts and claims.

TITLE III—SALE OF NONTAX DEBTS OWED TO UNITED STATES

Sec. 301. Authority to sell nontax debts.

Sec. 302. Requirement to sell certain nontax debts.

TITLE IV—TREATMENT OF HIGH VALUE NONTAX DEBTS

Sec. 401. Annual report on high value nontax debts.

Sec. 402. Review by Inspectors General.

Sec. 403. Requirement to seek seizure and forfeiture of assets securing high value nontax debt.

TITLE V—FEDERAL PAYMENTS

Sec. 501. Promoting electronic payments.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To reduce waste, fraud, and error in Federal benefit programs.

(2) To focus Federal agency management attention on high-risk programs.

(3) To better collect debts owed to the United States.

(4) To improve Federal payment systems.

(5) To improve reporting on Government operations.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

As used in this Act, the term "nontax debt" means any debt (within the meaning of that term as used in chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code) other than a debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the Tariff Act of 1930.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF ACT.

No provision of this Act shall apply to the Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service to the extent that such provision—

(1) involves the administration of the internal revenue laws; or

(2) conflicts with the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Tariff Act of 1930.

TITLE I—GENERAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 101. IMPROVING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—  
(A) by striking "1997" and inserting "1999"; and  
(B) by inserting "Congress and" after "submit to";

(2) by striking subsection (e); and  
(3) by striking subsections (f), (g), and (h).  
(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SECRETARY'S WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a)(1) of this section shall take effect March 1, 1998.

#### SEC. 102. IMPROVING TRAVEL MANAGEMENT.

(a) LIMITED EXCLUSION FROM REQUIREMENT REGARDING OCCUPATION OF QUARTERS.—Section 5911(e) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to lodging provided under chapter 57 of this title."

(b) USE OF TRAVEL MANAGEMENT CENTERS, AGENTS, AND ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SYSTEMS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO ENCOURAGE USE.—The head of each executive agency shall, with respect to travel by employees of the agency in the performance of the employment duties by the employee, require, to the extent practicable, the use by such employees of travel management centers, travel agents authorized for use by such employees, and electronic reservation and payment systems for the purpose of improving efficiency and economy regarding travel by employees of the agency.

(2) PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—(A) The Administrator of General Services shall develop a plan regarding the implementation of this subsection and shall, after consultation with the heads of executive agencies, submit to Congress a report describing such plan and the means by which such agency heads plan to ensure that employees use travel management centers, travel agents, and electronic reservation and payment systems as required by this subsection.

(B) The Administrator shall submit the plan required under subparagraph (A) not later than March 31, 1999.

(c) PAYMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES ON TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall develop a mechanism to ensure that employees of executive agencies are not inappropriately charged State and local taxes on travel expenses, including transportation, lodging, automobile rental, and other miscellaneous travel expenses.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 1999, the Administrator shall, after consultation with the heads of executive agencies, submit to Congress a report describing the steps taken, and proposed to be taken, to carry out this subsection.

#### TITLE II—IMPROVING FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES

##### SEC. 201. MISCELLANEOUS TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO SUBCHAPTER II OF CHAPTER 37 OF TITLE 31, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT.—Section 3716(h)(3) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(3) In applying this subsection with respect to any debt owed to a State, other than past due support being enforced by the State, subsection (c)(3)(A) shall not apply."

(b) DEBT SALES.—Section 3711 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (i).

(c) GAINSHARING.—Section 3720C(b)(2)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "delinquent loans" and inserting "debts".

(d) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PRIVATE COLLECTION CONTRACTORS.—

(1) COLLECTION BY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.—Section 3711(g) of title 31, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(11) In attempting to collect under this subsection through the use of garnishment any debt owed to the United States, a private collection contractor shall not be precluded from verifying the debtor's current employer, the location of the payroll office of the debtor's current employer, the period the debtor has been employed by the current employer of the debtor, and the compensation received by the debtor from the current employer of the debtor.

"(12)(A) The Secretary of the Treasury shall provide that any contract with a private collection contractor under this subsection shall include a provision that the contractor shall be subject to penalties under the contract—

"(i) if the contractor fails to comply with any restrictions under applicable law regarding the collection activities of debt collectors; or

"(ii) if the contractor engages in unreasonable or abusive debt collection practices in connection with the collection of debt under the contract.

"(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private collection contractor under this subsection shall not be subject to any liability or contract penalties in connection with efforts to collect a debt pursuant to a contract under this subsection by reason of actions that are required by the contract or by applicable law or regulations.

"(13) In evaluating the performance of a contractor under any contract entered into under this subsection, the Secretary of the Treasury shall consider the contractor's gross collections net of commissions (as a percentage of account amounts placed with the contractor) under the contract. The frequency of valid debtor complaints shall also be considered in the evaluation criteria.

"(14) In selecting contractors for performance of collection services, the Secretary of the Treasury shall evaluate bids received through a methodology that considers the bidder's prior performance in terms of net amounts collected under government collection contracts of similar size, if applicable. The frequency of valid debtor complaints shall also be considered in the evaluation criteria."

(2) COLLECTION BY PROGRAM AGENCY.—Section 3718 of title 31, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) In attempting to collect under this subsection through the use of garnishment any debt owed to the United States, a private collection contractor shall not be precluded from verifying the current place of employment of the debtor, the location of the payroll office of the debtor's current employer, the period the debtor has been employed by the current employer of the debtor, and the compensation received by the debtor from the current employer of the debtor.

"(i)(1) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency that contracts with a private collection contractor to collect a debt owed to the agency, or a guaranty agency or institution of higher education that contracts with a private collection contractor to collect a debt owed under any loan program authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, shall include a provision in the contract that the contractor—

"(A) shall be subject to penalties under the contract if the contractor fails to comply with any restrictions imposed under applicable law on the collection activities of debt collectors; and

"(B) shall be subject to penalties under the contract if the contractor engages in unreasonable or abusive debt collection practices in connection with the collection of debt under the contract.

"(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private collection contractor under this section shall not be subject to any liability or contract penalties in connection with efforts to collect a debt owed to an executive, judicial, or legislative agency, or owed under any loan program authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, by reason of actions required by the contract, or by applicable law or regulations.

"(j) In evaluating the performance of a contractor under any contract for the performance of debt collection services entered into by an executive, judicial, or legislative agency, the head of the agency shall consider the contractor's gross collections net of commissions (as a percentage of account amounts placed with the contractor) under the contract. The frequency of valid debtor complaints shall also be considered in the evaluation criteria.

"(k) In selecting contractors for performance of collection services, the head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency shall evaluate bids received through a methodology that considers the bidder's prior performance in terms of net amounts collected under government collection contracts of similar size, if applicable. The frequency of valid debtor complaints shall also be considered in the evaluation criteria."

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—None of the amendments made by this subsection shall be construed as altering or superseding the provisions of title 11, United States Code, or section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 3720A(h) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) beginning in paragraph (3), by striking the close quotation marks and all that follows through the matter preceding subsection (i); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"For purposes of this subsection, the disbursing official for the Department of the Treasury is the Secretary of the Treasury or his or her designee."

(f) CORRECTION OF REFERENCES TO FEDERAL AGENCY.—(1) Sections 3716(c)(6) and 3720A(a), (b), (c), and (e) of title 31, United States Code, are each amended by striking "Federal agency" each place it appears and inserting "executive, judicial, or legislative agency".

(2) Section 3716(h)(2)(C), of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking "a Federal agency" and inserting "an executive, judicial, or legislative agency".

(g) CLARIFICATION OF INAPPLICABILITY OF ACT TO CERTAIN AGENCIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no provision in this Act, the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (chapter 10 of title III of Public Law 104-134; 31 U.S.C. 3701 note), chapter 37 or subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 31, United States Code, or any amendments made by such Acts or any regulations issued thereunder, shall apply to activities carried out pursuant to a law enacted to protect, operate, and administer any deposit insurance funds, including the resolution and liquidation of failed or failing insured depository institutions.

(h) CONTRACTS FOR COLLECTION SERVICES.—Section 3718 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting "or any monetary claim, including any claims for civil fines or penalties, asserted by the Attorney General" before the period;

(2) in the third sentence of subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(A) by inserting "or in connection with other monetary claims" after "collection of claims of indebtedness";

(B) by inserting "or claim" after "the indebtedness"; and

(C) by inserting "or other person" after "the debtor"; and

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting "or any other monetary claim of" after "indebtedness owed".

**SEC. 202. BARRING DELINQUENT FEDERAL DEBTORS FROM OBTAINING FEDERAL BENEFITS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3720B of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**"§3720B. Barring delinquent Federal debtors from obtaining Federal benefits**

"(a)(1) A person shall not be eligible for the award or renewal of any Federal benefit described in paragraph (2) if the person has an outstanding nontax debt that is in a delinquent status with any executive, judicial, or legislative agency, as determined under standards prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Such a person may obtain additional Federal benefits described in paragraph (2) only after such delinquency is resolved in accordance with those standards.

"(2) The Federal benefits referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

"(A) Financial assistance in the form of a loan (other than a disaster loan) or loan insurance or guarantee.

"(B) Any Federal permit or license otherwise required by law.

"(b) The Secretary of the Treasury may exempt any class of claims from the application of subsection (a) at the request of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency.

"(c)(1) The head of any executive, judicial, or legislative agency may waive the application of subsection (a) to any Federal benefit that is administered by the agency based on standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

"(2) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency may delegate the waiver authority under paragraph (1) to the chief financial officer of the agency.

"(3) The chief financial officer of an agency to whom waiver authority is delegated under paragraph (2) may redelegate that authority only to the deputy chief financial officer of the agency. The deputy chief financial officer may not redelegate such authority.

"(d) As used in this section, the term 'nontax debt' means any debt other than a debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the Tariff Act of 1930."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3720B and inserting the following:

"3720B. Barring delinquent Federal debtors from obtaining Federal benefits."

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by this section shall not be construed as altering or superseding the provisions of title 11, United States Code.

**SEC. 203. COLLECTION AND COMPROMISE OF NONTAX DEBTS AND CLAIMS.**

(a) USE OF PRIVATE COLLECTION CONTRACTORS AND FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION CENTERS.—Paragraph (5) of section 3711(g) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(5)(A) Nontax debts referred or transferred under this subsection shall be serviced, collected, or compromised, or collection action thereon suspended or terminated, in accordance with otherwise applicable statutory requirements and authorities.

"(B) The head of each executive agency that operates a debt collection center may

enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

"(C) The Secretary of the Treasury shall—

"(i) maintain a schedule of private collection contractors and debt collection centers operated by agencies that are eligible for referral of claims under this subsection;

"(ii) maximize collections of delinquent nontax debts by referring delinquent nontax debts promptly;

"(iii) maintain competition between private collection contractors;

"(iv) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that a private collection contractor to which a nontax debt is referred is responsible for any administrative costs associated with the contract under which the referral is made.

"(D) As used in this paragraph, the term 'nontax debt' means any debt other than a debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the Tariff Act of 1930."

(b) LIMITATION ON DISCHARGE BEFORE USE OF PRIVATE COLLECTION CONTRACTOR OR DEBT COLLECTION CENTER.—Paragraph (9) of section 3711(g) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (H) as clauses (i) through (viii);

(2) by inserting "(A)" after "(9)";

(3) in subparagraph (A) (as designated by paragraph (2) of this subsection) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), by inserting "and subject to subparagraph (B)" after "as applicable"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(B)(i) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency may not discharge a nontax debt or terminate collection action on a nontax debt unless the debt has been referred to a private collection contractor or a debt collection center, referred to the Attorney General for litigation, sold without recourse, administrative wage garnishment has been undertaken, or in the event of bankruptcy, death, or disability.

"(ii) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency may waive the application of clause (i) to any nontax debt, or class of nontax debts if the head of the agency determines that the waiver is in the best interest of the United States.

"(iii) As used in this subparagraph, the term 'nontax debt' means any debt other than a debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the Tariff Act of 1930."

**TITLE III—SALE OF NONTAX DEBTS OWED TO UNITED STATES**

**SEC. 301. AUTHORITY TO SELL NONTAX DEBTS.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide that the head of each executive, judicial, or legislative agency shall establish a program of nontax debt sales in order to—

(1) minimize the loan and nontax debt portfolios of the agency;

(2) improve credit management while serving public needs;

(3) reduce delinquent nontax debts held by the agency;

(4) obtain the maximum value for loan and nontax debt assets; and

(5) obtain valid data on the amount of the Federal subsidy inherent in loan programs conducted pursuant to the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 93-344).

(b) SALES AUTHORIZED.—(1) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency may sell, subject to section 504(b) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661c(b)) and using competitive procedures, any nontax debt owed to the United States that is administered by the agency.

(2) Costs the agency incurs in selling nontax debt pursuant to this section may be deducted from the proceeds received from the sale. Such costs may include, but are not limited to—

(A) the costs of any contract for identification, billing, or collection services;

(B) the costs of contractors assisting in the sale of nontax debt;

(C) the fees of appraisers, auctioneers, and realty brokers;

(D) the costs of advertising and surveying; and

(E) other reasonable costs incurred by the agency.

(3) Sales of nontax debt under this section—

(A) shall be for—

(i) cash; or

(ii) cash and a residuary equity, joint venture, or profit participation, if the head of the agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, determines that the proceeds will be greater than the proceeds from a sale solely for cash;

(B) shall be without recourse against the United States, but may include the use of guarantees if otherwise authorized by law; and

(C) shall transfer to the purchaser all rights of the United States to demand payment of the nontax debt, other than with respect to a residuary equity, joint venture, or profit participation under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(c) EXISTING AUTHORITY NOT AFFECTED.—This section is not intended to limit existing statutory authority of the head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency to sell loans, nontax debts, or other assets.

**SEC. 302. REQUIREMENT TO SELL CERTAIN NONTAX DEBTS.**

(a) SALE OF DELINQUENT LOANS.—The head of each executive, judicial, or legislative agency shall sell any nontax loan owed to the United States by the later of—

(1) the date on which the nontax debt becomes 24 months delinquent; or

(2) 24 months after referral of the nontax debt to the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to section 3711(g)(1) of title 31, United States Code. Sales under this subsection shall be conducted under the authority in section 301.

(b) SALE OF NEW LOANS.—The head of each executive, judicial, or legislative agency shall sell each loan obligation arising from a program administered by the agency, not later than 6 months after the loan is disbursed, unless the head of the agency determines that the sale would interfere with the mission of the agency administering the program under which the loan was disbursed, or the head of the agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, determines that a longer period is necessary to protect the financial interests of the United States. Such loan obligations shall be audited annually in accordance with generally accepted audit standards. Sales under this subsection shall be conducted under the authority in section 301.

(c) SALE OF NONTAX DEBTS AFTER TERMINATION OF COLLECTION ACTION.—After terminating collection action, the head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency shall sell, using competitive procedures, any nontax debt or class of nontax debts owed to the United States unless the head of the agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of the Treasury, determines that the sale is not in the best financial interests of the United States. Such nontax debts shall be audited annually in accordance with generally accepted audit standards.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—(1) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency shall not, without the approval of the Attorney General, sell any nontax debt that is the subject

of an allegation of or investigation for fraud, or that has been referred to the Department of Justice for litigation.

(2) The head of an executive, judicial, or legislative agency may exempt from sale any class of nontax debts if the head of the agency determines that the sale would interfere with the mission of the agency administering the program under which the indebtedness was incurred.

#### TITLE IV—TREATMENT OF HIGH VALUE NONTAX DEBTS

##### SEC. 401. ANNUAL REPORT ON HIGH VALUE NONTAX DEBTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the head of each agency that administers a program that gives rise to a delinquent high value nontax debt shall submit a report to Congress that lists each such debt.

(b) CONTENT.—A report under this section shall, for each debt listed in the report, include the following:

(1) The name of each person liable for the debt, including, for a person that is a company, cooperative, or partnership, the names of the owners and principal officers.

(2) The amounts of principal, interest, and penalty comprising the debt.

(3) The actions the agency has taken to collect the debt, and prevent future losses.

(4) Specification of any portion of the debt that has been written-down administratively or due to a bankruptcy proceeding.

(5) An assessment of why the borrower defaulted.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning that term has in chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by this Act.

(2) HIGH VALUE NONTAX DEBT.—The term “high value nontax debt” means a nontax debt having an outstanding value (including principal, interest, and penalties) that exceeds \$1,000,000.

##### SEC. 402. REVIEW BY INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Inspector General of each agency shall review the annual report to Congress required in section 401 and make such recommendations as necessary to improve performance of the agency. Each Inspector General shall periodically review and report to Congress on the agency’s nontax debt collection management practices. As part of such reviews, the Inspector General shall examine agency efforts to reduce the aggregate amount of high value nontax debts that are resolved in whole or in part by compromise, default, or bankruptcy.

##### SEC. 403. REQUIREMENT TO SEEK SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE OF ASSETS SECURING HIGH VALUE NONTAX DEBT.

The head of an agency authorized to collect a high value nontax debt that is delinquent shall, when appropriate, promptly seek seizure and forfeiture of assets pledged to the United States in any transaction giving rise to the nontax debt. When an agency determines that seizure or forfeiture is not appropriate, the agency shall include a justification for such determination in the report under section 401.

#### TITLE V—FEDERAL PAYMENTS

##### SEC. 501. PROMOTING ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS.

(a) EARLY RELEASE OF ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS.—Section 3903(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) provide that the required payment date is—

“(A) the date payment is due under the contract for the item of property or service provided; or

“(B) no later than 30 days after a proper invoice for the amount due is received if a spe-

cific payment date is not established by contract;”; and

(2) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (9) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(10) provide that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may waive the application of requirements under paragraph (1) to provide for early payment of vendors in cases where an agency will implement an electronic payment technology which improves agency cash management and business practice.”.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT ELECTRONIC PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to an agreement between the head of an executive agency and the applicable financial institution or institutions based on terms acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury, the head of such agency may accept an electronic payment, including debit and credit cards, to satisfy a nontax debt owed to the agency.

(2) GUIDELINES FOR AGREEMENTS REGARDING PAYMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall develop guidelines regarding agreements between agencies and financial institutions under paragraph (1).

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the bill, as amended, was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

##### 115.32 FEDERALLY OWNED INVENTIONS LICENSE

On motion of Mrs. MORELLA, by unanimous consent, the Committee on Science was discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4859) to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions.

When said bill was considered, read twice, ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said bill.

##### 115.33 LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL

On motion of Mr. CASTLE, by unanimous consent, the bill (H.R. 1560) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and for other purposes; together with the following amendment of the Senate thereto, was taken from the Speaker’s table:

Page 10, after line 2 insert:

##### SEC. 11. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS FOR THE “LITTLE ROCK NINE”.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, hereafter in this section referred to as the “Little Rock Nine”, voluntarily subjected themselves to the bitter stinging pains of racial bigotry;

(2) the Little Rock Nine are civil rights pioneers whose selfless acts considerably advanced the civil rights debate in this country;

(3) the Little Rock Nine risked their lives to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and subsequently the Nation;

(4) the Little Rock Nine sacrificed their innocence to protect the American principle that we are all “one nation, under God, indivisible”;

(5) the Little Rock Nine have indelibly left their mark on the history of this Nation; and

(6) the Little Rock Nine have continued to work toward equality for all Americans.

(b) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of Congress, to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred to the “Little Rock Nine”, gold medals of appropriate design, in recognition of the selfless heroism that such individuals exhibited and the pain they suffered in the cause of civil rights by integrating Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

(c) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (b) the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary for each recipient.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—Effective October 1, 1998, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(e) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

(1) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals struck pursuant to this section under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The appropriation used to carry out this section shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of sales under paragraph (1).

##### SEC. 12. FORD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to Gerald R. and Betty Ford a gold medal of appropriate design—

(1) in recognition of their dedicated public service and outstanding humanitarian contributions to the people of the United States; and

(2) in commemoration of the following occasions in 1998:

(A) The 85th anniversary of the birth of President Ford.

(B) The 80th anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Ford.

(C) The 50th wedding anniversary of President and Mrs. Ford.

(D) The 50th anniversary of the 1st election of Gerald R. Ford to the United States House of Representatives.

(E) The 25th anniversary of the approval of Gerald R. Ford by the Congress to become Vice President of the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$20,000 to carry out this section.

(d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

(1) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to this section under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The appropriation used to carry out this section shall be reimbursed out of the proceeds of sales under paragraph (1).